

1979

In the Fall
of 1979: I was
driving a ^{Yakina}
light tractor mower
toward a field
gate: I sensed
a big wind

pulling a cross my Self: And
therefore the gate: I intuited:
Not quite enough Wind to pull

**the gate open: I slowed down the
mower hoping to arrive at the gate**

at precisely **y the exact moment that the wind would** pull it open:
As usual: I **sighed: I was 46: I was getting too old** to be carrying
on like this: **It would be: So easy: So elegant: So** human: To stop:
Get off: And **open the gate: I realized in a flash** in my Self like a
small star flying up my spine like an ecstatic fall squirrel running
up a high pine flashing minute silk shine to the right top of my spine
“What in the world am I doing this for?” Instantaneously I looked up:
saw a friend looking down at me from on the loafing shed of the
barn: Simultaneously The wind pulled the gate open at precisely
the right moment: I saw a look of astonishment on my friend’s face:
I was through the gate feeling ashamed of not having had enough

YAKINA

**wisdom to just get off the tractor and open the gate: Later: With per-
haps eighty-five or maybe ninety people in attendance in our barn at
a meeting my friend announced very mysteriously in very hushed tones**
that he **had witnessed** a miracle: A gate had **opened for me** just when I was going to
crash **into it: And** then closed after I had **driven through** it: I had to spend two hours
to try to **help him** to realize that the only **effective magic** is: Stopping: Getting off:
Opening the gate: Twenty years later when **ever I recall** this: My friend will still say:
“But David: The **gate closed behind you?**” **Though every breath of life is** a magical

**will on our
friends wi
rp capac
fff f f f f
arth: Still f
ll wind wa
ity to puf
up worth:**

1 YAKINA: 19th Century Eastern European vernacular for YAKIN; Especially Viennese Lumpen Yiddish; Read THE 'AWARIFU-L-MA'ARIF: 11.9. 'ILM-L-YAKIN (KNOWLEDGE OF CERTAINTY) : Shaikh Shahabu-d-D 'Umar bin Muhammad-SAHRAWARDI, C.1250: "Not all at once save by the rising of the sun of man is Self-hatred removed."